

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership
Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes: July 11, 2007

I. Call to Order at 1:40 PM by Richard Porter (Chair).

II. Welcome and Introductions

The attendees present introduced themselves and their representative agency/group.

Epidemiology Work Group Members Present

Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Public Health Statistics (Chair)

Jeanne Blackburn, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy (Staffer)

Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University

James Cunningham, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Arizona

Catherine Osborne, Arizona Department of Education

Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program

Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Department of Behavioral Health Statistics

Phillip Stevenson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (via conference call)

Lisa Shumaker, Arizona Department of Health Services, Department of Behavioral Health Services (via conference call)

Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security (via conference call)

Zeenat Mahal, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (via conference call)

Work Group Members Absent

Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services

Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services

Charles Katz, Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona State University

Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute

Carisa Dwyer, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy

Guests

Holly Orozco, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy

David Nahmias, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy (Summer Intern)

Lisa Teyechea, Pima Prevention Partnership

III. Call to Public

No members of the public attended the meeting.

IV. Epidemiology Work Group Updates and Changes

- Holly Orozco briefed the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group on the changes that will occur to the group as the result of Executive Order 2007-12, signed by Governor Janet Napolitano which established the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP).
 - i. ASAP originally existed as the SPF SIG Advisory Council.
 - ii. The creation of ASAP is part of Priority Recommendation 1 in the Meth Task Force.
 - iii. The first meeting for ASAP has not been scheduled yet.
- Changes due to the formalization of ASAP will not affect the substantive work of the Epidemiology Work Group, but the membership list may change slightly. It was noted that the member list is currently being reviewed by Dennis Burke, Governor Napolitano's Chief of Staff and Chair of ASAP, as well as by Boards and Commissions. Holly Orozco notified the Work Group that the creation of ASAP and the "formalization" of the Work Group will likely result in more critique of its work. Nevertheless, the Governor and Dennis Burke have praised the work of the group.
- Members were provided with the Executive Order and ASAP's vision/mission/goals. The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy's website contains links relevant to the ASAP. The Executive Order establishing the ASAP can be found at: http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/EO_2007_12_SDOC7565.pdf and the ASAP vision, mission, and goals can be found at: http://gocyf.az.gov/SAP/BRD_ASAP.asp.
- Holly notified the Work Group that a subcommittee of the Epidemiology Work Group geared toward Emerging Substance Abuse Issues will be formed. This subcommittee will report to the Epidemiology Work Group on emerging trends and will submit requests to track data relevant to these concerns. Zeenat Mahal volunteered to participate on the committee, and Work Group members were notified that if they had an interest in participating on this subcommittee, he/she should contact Jeanne Blackburn or Carisa Dwyer.

- Richard Porter noted that the changes to the group will necessitate the submission of official meeting minutes to Dennis Burke and the public. In addition, he noted that the Work Group will have to comply with Open Meeting laws. Therefore the group will need to adhere to its agenda items. Any agenda item(s) a member wishes to add must be submitted to Jeanne Blackburn or Carisa Dwyer as soon as possible, no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting. Meeting locations will be posted by the Arizona Department of Administration, and the public is welcome to attend all meetings.
- Jeanne noted that the meeting schedule has been routinized; they will henceforth be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Executive Tower, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

V. Arizona Youth Survey Update

- Phillip Stevenson updated the Work Group on the status of the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) that occurred as a result of SB1164, now ARS 15-104. Please see the following link for more information: <http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/15/00104.htm&Title=15&DocType=ARS>. The AYS was granted an exemption from an active parental consent requirement for youth participation in mental health screenings. The Arizona Department of Education will help facilitate the AYS, which will be sent to students in the 2008 spring semester.
- Members requested that formal letters be sent to state agencies (e.g., the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Department of Behavioral Health Services and The Arizona Department of Health Service's Tobacco Education and Prevention Program) describing the AYS exemption and requesting funding for the survey.
- Members asked about AYS school sampling methodology. Phillip said that schools are stratified and those schools that have participated in the past are welcome to continue to participate. In addition, other schools can request to participate. Analysts look at the stratified sample data and compare it to the overall data to determine possible data skewing. Phillip noted that no skewing has yet been noted in the data as a result of the inclusion of additional schools. The Work Group asked whether Juvenile Corrections schools are included in the AYS. They recognized the value of surveying such schools, as long as the data from these students are not included in the Public School reports.
- Phillip discussed the nature of the exemption granted for the AYS. In order to secure the exemption, four behavioral health questions and one religiosity question were eliminated from the survey. However, these questions are not part of the overall Risk and Protective Factor model upon which the survey instrument is designed.

- The Work Group discussed the value of making the AYS survey comparable to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Outcome Measures (NOMS). While group members discussed the benefit of using the NOMS, they also agreed that the AYS is a very good measure of youth substance use and consequences specific to Arizona.
- Phillip noted that the AYS would not increase its sample size, as the survey reaches 110,000 to 120,000 students already. Instead, ACJC would try to increase the response rate.
- Because of the importance of the AYS, Phillip said he would like legislation passed to ensure its continued funding.

VI. Arizona at a Glance Snapshot

- Jeanne Blackburn distributed a draft copy of “The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona,” to be published by the Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy. The Snapshot is currently undergoing review by the Governor’s Office of Communications and Dennis Burke, Chief of Staff. Following publication, the Snapshot will be distributed to Work Group members and other interested parties. The Governor has praised the Snapshot as one of the best reports she has seen, and Irene Jacobs, Executive Director and Policy Advisor for the Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, would like it to be disseminated publicly.
- Jeanne stressed that the Snapshot is not an executive summary of the larger Epidemiological Profile and is not intended as a publication by the Work Group. Instead, its contents will be useful for policy advisors and the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet, especially with data on underage drinking and methamphetamine use.
- Jeanne requested that Work Group members review the Snapshot and send her any recommendations as to particular text from the Snapshot that should be included in the Epidemiology Profile.

VII. Epidemiology Profile Update

- Jeanne Blackburn is currently writing more summaries for the Epidemiology Profile and making changes suggested by the Work Group members. She appreciates the comments from the members, which have been very consistent. She is adding more trend data as well. Any and all corrections and comments from members must be submitted to her by **Friday, June 20th**. After that, she and David Nahmias, intern at the Division for Substance Abuse Policy, will create the full document, paginate it, add the proper headers and footers, and number the figures and tables. Because of the document’s sheer size, it had to be split into several Microsoft Word documents to be emailed to Work Group members. Any text highlighted in blue is for her reference, as such highlights refer her to tables or figures still needing numbers. She and Richard will then meet to review the entire document and make necessary changes.

- The tentative timeline for the Profile is the end of July. The Profile will need to be reviewed by the Office of Communications, which will take a few weeks. Jeanne hopes that the Profile will be published by the end of August. They will print at least 100 color copies of the Profile to distribute to relevant and interested agencies and SPF SIG coalitions. It will also be available as a download from the Division for Substance Abuse Policy website.
- Wendy Wolfersteig noted that Chapter 6 (i.e., Assessment of Resources), sent in multiple documents to Work Group members, were inconsistent. Jeanne had already discovered the error and will send corrected versions to members via email.

VIII. Agency Data Presentation: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Epidemiology Work Group

- James Cunningham acts as the Arizona representative on the NIDA Work Group, which was initiated 31 years ago.
- James said that Arizona's methamphetamine trend indicators and treatment admissions are comparable with the data in other states in the Southwest. Every Southwestern state saw a flat (no change) rate of methamphetamine use in 2006, while every other state saw a decrease in 2006. This may be due to laws restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine and/or the restriction of other precursor chemicals.
- James has access to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a federal database of hospital emergency room visits for substance abuse with a breakdown of drug-specific admissions. DAWN establishes rates and collects raw data. There is DAWN data for every non-federal hospital in Arizona. These data may be useful in compiling quarterly Epidemiological Reports for methamphetamine use, a suggestion of The Meth Task Force.

IX. Identification of Non-Represented Agencies

- The Methamphetamine Report recommended that committees identify agencies and representatives that may be able to provide data and insight on substance abuse in Arizona.
- James Cunningham recommended a representative from the medical examiner's office (coroner) to sit on the Work Group. However, there is no specific data analysis division with the medical examiner's office, so a proper representative would need to be found.
- Other agencies the Work Group recommended included Adult Corrections, Child Protective Services, a representative from the Navajo Nation and a representative from Northern Arizona University.
- Members are encouraged to submit additional ideas and names to Jeanne Blackburn.

X. Scheduling of Future Meetings

- Unless emergencies necessitate changes to the schedule of meetings, all future Epidemiology Work Group meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every Month in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Executive Tower, from 1:30 to 3:30. A call-in number will be provided on the meeting agenda.
- The next five meeting dates are as follows: August 8th, September 12th, October 10th, November 14th, December 12th, 2007.

XI. Adjournment of Meeting at 3:02 PM by Richard Porter.